Cool Tools
Professional Development Working Group
Brown Bag Presentation

Ice Breaker Games
http://www.sporcle.com/

Sporcle is a web site and mobile application that provides fun and addictive quizzes. Games range from trivial diversions to educational study guides. Provide your staff/students with brain-engaging fun every day.

Word Clouds
www.wordle.net

Word clouds are a way to visually introduce terms that correspond to a particular subject.   More of a visual tool, but it can serve as an ice breaker if you ask others to try to make sentences out of the words in the cloud.   Up to 30 words.

- Compatible with different languages with same alphabet
- If you type in a phrase that repeats a certain word, it will appear larger than the rest of the words in order to show importance.
- To put a Wordle image directly into a presentation you have to take a screen shot or just insert a direct link to your Wordle.

Write a Story
www.storybird.com

Use this online resource for collaborative storytelling. Storybirds are short, art-inspired stories you make to share, read, and print. Read them like books, play them like games, and send them like greeting cards. They're curiously fun.

Poll the Audience

This tool uses cell phone technology to instantly poll the audience and to immediately display the results.   User can also see the results in different formats (summary table, response history, live chart, static chart).

- You can download the polls directly into Powerpoint
- 3 different types:
    - Free text poll- you can ask any open-ended question, such as "What is your name?" or "Where do you come from?" or even "What questions do you have for the presenter?" The audience simply texts their answers
    - Multiple Choice Polls- A question is asked with multiple choice answers and the audience texts their choice. The results are then displayed as a graph in real time.
    - Goal Poll- not very pedagogical. People text in numbers and a thermometer climbs towards a goal. Used to track pledges, donations, or sales goals.

Cartoons

www.toondoo.com

Make cartoons to show specific situations or simply to add humor to any presentation.   Fill-in-the blank cartoons are good to make the audience think about what they would do in any given situation or practice a new language skill.

Puzzle Maker

http://www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker/?CFID=13152617&CFTOKEN=49923210

Puzzle Maker is a free and easy way to make crosswords, word search puzzles, letter tiles, and more.